
MASTER PLANNING NEWS
GOVERNOR THOMPSON STATE PARK
SPECIAL DRAFT MASTER PLAN ISSUE

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT LISTED
MAP OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SHOWN
JULY PUBLIC MEETINGS ANNOUNCED

JULY 2004

SPECIAL EDITION

Department of Natural Resources Northeast Region Headquarters 1125 N. Military Ave. PO Box 10448 Green Bay, WI 54307-0448 (920) 492-5839

Dear Friends,

We are happy to announce that the conclusion of the master planning process for Governor Thompson State Park is near. This is also an announcement of public meetings to discuss the Draft Master Plan. Included are a summary of the plan's recreational features and a copy of the proposed Recreation Development map as it appears in the Draft Master Plan. We are using a summary to tell you about the features of the master plan because of the sheer size of the document. The Governor Thompson State Park Draft Master Plan/EA in its current form is seventy-five pages, plus five maps.

If you would like to view the Governor Thompson State Park Draft Master Plan/EA in its entirety, with the maps in full color, you can see it on the DNR Master Planning Website at:

http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/master_planning/

Just click on "Governor Thompson" in the left-hand margin under "Parks and Trails" and you will be led to the Draft Master Plan. If you wish, you may also print your own hard copy of the draft. Or, go to your nearest DNR Service Center to see a hard copy.

The Draft Master Plan also contains an Environmental Assessment section that talks about the potential environmental impacts of the proposed park development. We need your input on both the draft master plan *and* the Environmental Assessment.

When does a Draft Master Plan become final? That happens when the Natural Resources Board votes to approve it. We anticipate that the Master Plan for Governor Thompson State Park will be presented at the September Natural Resources Board meeting. If the plan is approved, then it becomes the "Approved Master Plan for Governor Thompson State Park."

For more information contact Governor Thompson State Park 10008 Paust La. Crivitz, WI 54114 (715) 757-3979

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Notice of Public Meeting and Environmental Assessment Review

DNR SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON DRAFT MASTER PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
GOVERNOR THOMPSON STATE PARK, MARINETTE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

The public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Master Plan and Environmental Assessment for the management of Governor Thompson State Park. **Public meetings will be held on July 20, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall of the Town of Stephenson, W11280 CTH X, Crivitz, and on July 21, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary Auditorium at 1660 East Shore Drive in Green Bay**

Public commentary, whether written, verbal, e-mailed or given at public meetings is considered with the same degree of importance. After incorporating comments, the Draft Master Plan will be presented to the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board at its September 2004 meeting for approval. The approved plan will guide the park's future management, development and operation.

The public participated with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in developing the management vision, goals and objectives for this property that currently includes 2,415 acres of land in the Town of Stephenson in Marinette County. The master plan Core Team has developed management proposals based upon input from earlier public meetings, correspondence, phone calls and discussions with the Upper Green Bay Partnership team. Public input is again needed to review and finalize the draft master plan.

The draft plan describes the existing property boundaries and recommends acquisition of additional land for resource protection. It also proposes to provide day use recreation, trails, camping and access to Woods Lake, Huber Lake and Caldron Falls Reservoir. Shorelines would be maintained in a predominately natural condition and at least 85% of the park would be left undeveloped. Recommended vegetative management includes prescriptions in several areas of the park to achieve special objectives such as aspen perpetuation, barrens restoration, oak enhancement, and pine plantation succession.

The draft master plan is also an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the provisions of NR150. Therefore, an EA public comment period will be conducted concurrently with the master plan comment period, and a log of comments kept. The preliminary finding of the Environmental Assessment is that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The Department does not anticipate that this proposal would result in significant environmental effects.

At the public meetings individuals will have an opportunity to speak one-on-one with DNR master plan team members involved in the writing of the master plan. Maps of the property will be on display, for use during discussions.

Copies of the draft document may be requested by contacting Dan Rogers at (920) 492-5839. Copies for viewing will be available at DNR Service Centers at Peshtigo, Oshkosh, Green Bay, Wautoma and Sturgeon Bay. The master plan may also be viewed in its entirety on the DNR Master Planning Website at: http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/master_planning/. Written comments must be received by **July 31, 2004** in order to be considered. Send to Dan Rogers, Department of Natural Resources Northeast Region Headquarters, PO Box 10448, Green Bay WI. 54307 – 0448, or to daniel.rogers@dnr.state.wi.us

Summary of *Draft* Governor Thompson State Park Draft Master Plan

Management and Development

Governor Thompson State Park provides opportunities for public recreation and education in a rustic, forested setting. The park and its resources provide a broad range of ecological, cultural, social and economic benefits. The undeveloped and scenic character of the shorelines and forested uplands give the State Park an atmosphere of solitude, reflection and learning while promoting traditional state park recreational activities within the capabilities of the natural resources of the site. Both day-use activities and overnight camping are provided. The recreational facilities include some modern conveniences, but the park structures and facilities have an informal "Northwoods" style.

Recreational Facilities

- Modern Campground – 100 sites, 30 to be electric, flush toilets, showers, playground, amphitheater, handicap cabin, travel trailer pumpout, fish cleaning station, bicyclist/hiker camping
- Walk-in Rustic Campsites (3) – primitive style, Caldron Falls shoreline area
- Outdoor Group Camp – for groups, tent or trailer, hand pumped water, vault toilets
- Indoor Group Camp – two rustic buildings, for groups, hand pumped water, vault toilets
- Woods Lake Day Use Area – picnicking, fishing, relaxing and passive uses, shelter, vault toilets, drinking water, non-motorized lake access
- Huber Lake Day Use Area – quiet walk-to picnicking and low impact recreation, fishing, shelter, trails, drinking water, vault toilets
- Caldron Falls Reservoir Vistas – informal viewing spots along the shoreline
- Caldron Bay Boat Landing/Water Access – upgraded #13, boarding dock, handicap accessible fishing pier, vault toilets, parking, fish cleaning facility located at campground
- Observation Tower – classic wooden tower, view of the park and Caldron Falls Reservoir
- Nature Interpretation – nature center, nature trail, display kiosks, fire tower adaptation

Trail Systems

- Bike Trails – access most park areas, gravel paved, 5 miles
- Nature Trail – handicap accessible, ½ mile loop
- Hiking/Cross-Country Skiing – access many areas, 10.75 miles, trailhead with parking, water, vault toilets and information kiosk
- Snowmobile Pass-through – non-road route, 2.75 mile substitute for Ranch Road route
- Horse Trails – pending planning and coordination with Peshtigo River State Forest

NOTE: Roads in the Peshtigo River State Forest are currently **open** to horseback riding.

Proposed Vegetative Management

The purpose of vegetative management is to "...provide and maintain a variety of high quality native communities within the ecological capabilities of the site..." The key phrase "...within the ecological capabilities of the site..." is critical to understanding the proposed management strategy. All areas of the park would be managed, some actively and some passively.

Red Oak Management - enhancement areas, possible future succession to pine or maple

- Aspen Management - succession and perpetuation areas
- Pine/Oak Barrens Restoration – educational feature of unique vegetative community
- Wild Rice Bed Protection – avoid disturbance, monitor water levels
- Pine Plantation Management – maximum size trees, eventual succession to other types
- Swamp Conifers and Hardwoods – natural succession to climax forest
- Shoreline Buffer Zones – 200' on Caldron Falls, 100' on Huber Lake and Woods Lake
- Forest Pests and Disease Control – gypsy moth, tent caterpillar, oak wilt

Park Boundary and Land Acquisition

The master plan recommends expansion of the Park boundary by about 1,520 acres for resource protection. This would bring the proposed park boundary to 3,935 acres. It is also proposed that a small part of the Peshtigo River State Forest shoreline adjacent to the Park be included within the State Park to provide a no-wake zone in Caldron Bay within Governor Thompson State Park.

Governor Thompson State Park

Map B Proposed Recreation Development and Management Zones

